Reply.—The Taluk is under settlement and the question will be considered if a representation is made to the Settlement department.

4. Abolition of ottivilakkam on Kudipulli thanathu properties.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (Shertallay) said that Kudipulli thanathu lands were entered in the Ayacut as jenmom in the names of the original alienors and as in the past such lands were never subjected to ottivilakkam, he requested that they might be exempted from this process in the present settlement also.

Mr. Narasimha Kammathi of Shertallay (Nominated) spoke in support.

Reply.—Ottivilakkam has been abolished by section 24 of the Settlement Proclamation of 1886 in the case of inam properties. The prayer is for the extension of this concession to Kudipulli thanathu lands. This will be considered in connection with the settlement of the Taluk.

5. Consideration of shortage in the area of wet lands and fallows in reckoning tax.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur) said that in assessing wet lands due consideration should be given to any deficiency that might be found in the actual measurement and also to fallows.

Reply.—Appreciable shortage other than that due to differences in the scales of measurement adopted in the past and the present settlement is considered in assessing lands. In regard to fallows, the rule is to calculate the average of the tax levied during the years of cultivation for the past 10 years and to fix it as the present assessment. This rule was framed in connection with the settlement of the Kartikapalli Taluk and has been since followed. No change is called for.

6. Cancelment of Huzur order fixing more than ⅓ assessment on Karanma and Irakaranma lands.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur) requested that this question might receive the early consideration of Government.

Reply.—No change in the existing rule is called for.

7. Assessment on Cherikal lands to be fixed only after due consideration of the difficulties attending Cherikal cultivation.

Mr. K. Chidambara Iyer, B. A., L. T., (Changanachery) said that Cherikals are lands lying at the foot of the ghats in Changanachery, Chengannur, Minachil, Muvattupuzha and adjoining

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taluks and that they are only periodically cultivable. The tracts had to be cleared of jungle, labour was not easily obtainable in the localities, water-supply was scarce and the crops had to be protected from wild animals. Unless a large area of land was available, systematic cultivation would be impossible. But this was rendered difficult by large tracts fit for such cultivation being included within reserves or granted to European planters. The upset price would amount to a large sum and unless some concession was given to the ryots by putting a light assessment on the lands, people would not willingly come forward to take up Cherikal cultivation and even the lands now under cultivation stood the chance of being summarily abandoned. The member requested that due consideration might be paid to the above difficulties in the settlement of Cherikal lands.

Mr. K. G. Raghava Menon (Changanachery) also spoke on the subject.

Reply.—Government have under consideration the question of laying down some special rules for the settlement of Cherikals. The suggestions now made will be considered in that connection.

8. Heavy assessment fixed on the ground and trees in Shertallay.

Mr. Narasimha Kammathi of Shertallay (Nominated) represented that both land and trees in Shertallay were heavily assessed by the settlement officers and requested a reduction in the rates.

Reply.—Fair rates appear to have been fixed.

9. Increase in the present assessment on Kettuthengu.

Mr. Narayanan Madhavan Karthavu (Shertallay) said that tax on cocoanut-oil was not a source of garden revenue throughout the State, but was levied only in Shertallay and Vaikam. The necessity for the abolition of this tax was pressed on the attention of Government at the last session of the Assembly. There were special difficulties attending the cultivation of cocoanut trees in sandy tracts like Shertallay. In Mr. Ramiengar's Settlement Memorandum it is stated that 3 per cent. of the trees alone is set apart as those on which the Sovereign's due is to be levied in the shape of oil, but the practice now followed by the Settlement Department was to set apart 25 per cent. or one for every 4 trees. As this was a hardship, the member prayed that, in case Government were not prepared to abolish the tax

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